**Notes on Style Analysis**

To help you move chronologically through the text, there are **transition words** you can use. A few of them are listed below:

Begins opens closes contrasts

Shifts to juxtaposes ends moves to

**Every analysis paragraph MUST:**

Identify the part of the text you are analyzing by using **transition words** and **strong verbs** to

explain what is being said.

Identify the **strongest rhetorical strategies** used in that particular section. This includes

incorporating **specific text examples** (exact words from the text – see last page of this handout

for proper format) into your own words. Do NOT try to discuss every strategy the writer uses;

pick the strongest!

Clearly and specifically **explain how** the rhetorical strategies are used to help the writer achieve his purpose and reach his audience.

The above items must be woven together seamlessly into **one sophisticated paragraph** of the body of your analysis essay. A sample format is below:

**Strong vs. Weak Verbs**

To help you move away from summary and toward **ANALYSIS**, you need to begin to incorporate strong verbs into your writing when discussing the writer’s rhetorical choices. Below is a list of verbs that are considered weak because they imply summary and a list of verbs that are considered strong because they imply analysis. Strive to use the stronger verbs in your essays to help push yourself away from summary and toward analysis:

“The writer flatters…” NOT “The writer says…”

**WEAK VERBS (Summary)**

says relates goes on to say tells

this quote shows explains states shows

**STRONG VERBS (Analysis)**

implies trivializes flatters qualifies processes describes

suggests denigrates lionizes dismisses analyzes questions

compares vilifies praises supports enumerates contrasts

emphasizes demonizes establishes admonishes expounds argues

defines ridicules minimizes narrates lists warns

**Powerful and meaningful verbs to use in your analyses**

**Alternatives to “show”**

Acknowledge

Address

Analyze

Apply

Argue

Assert

Augment

Broaden

Calculate

Capitalize

Characterize

Claim

Clarify

Compare

Complicate

Confine

Connect

Consider

Construct

Contradict

Correct

Create

Convince

Critique

Declare

Deduce

Defend

Demonstrate

Deny

Describe

Determine

Differentiate

Disagree

Discard

Discover

Discuss

Dismiss

Distinguish

Duplicate

Elaborate

Emphasize

Employ

Enable

Engage

Enhance

Establish

Evaluate

Exacerbate

Examine

Exclude

Exhibit

Expand

Explain

Exploit

Express

Extend

Facilitate

Feature

Forecast

Formulate

Fracture

Generalize

Group

Guide

Hamper

Hypothesize

Identify

Illuminate

Illustrate

Impair

Implement

Implicate

Imply

Improve

Include

Incorporate

Indicate

Induce

Initiate

Inquire

Instigate

Integrate

Interpret

Intervene

Invert

Isolate

Justify

Locate

Loosen

Maintain

Manifest

Manipulate

Measure

Merge

Minimize

Modify

Monitor

Necessitate

Negate

Nullify

Obscure

Observe

Obtain

Offer

Omit

Optimize

Organize

Outline

Overstate

Persist

Point out

Possess

Predict

Present

Probe

Produce

Promote

Propose

Prove

Provide

Qualify

Quantify

Question

Realize

Recommend

Reconstruct

Redefine

Reduce

Refer

Reference

Refine

Reflect

Refute

Regard

Reject

Relate

Rely

Remove

Repair

Report

Represent

Resolve

Retrieve

Reveal

Revise

Separate

Shape

Signify

Simulate

Solve

Specify

Structure

Suggest

Summarize

Support

Suspend

Sustain

Tailor

Terminate

Testify

Theorize

Translate

Undermine

Understand

Unify

Utilize

Validate

Vary

View

Vindicate

Yield